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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 04 HARARE 001982

SIPDIS

NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR JENDAYI FRAZER  
LONDON FOR CGURNEY  
NAIROBI FOR PFLAUMER  
PARIS FOR NEARY

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/29/2012

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PINR](#) [ZI](#)

SUBJECT: ZIMBABWE CABINET BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

REF: HARARE 01943

Classified By: Political Officer Kimberly Jemison for reasons: 1.5 (b) and (d).

11. (C) Reftel reported President Mugabe's August 24 cabinet reshuffle. As promised reftel, we provide below additional biographic information on the new appointees (we have not included cabinet members who retained the same portfolios):

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Ministry of Energy and Power Development  
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Amos Bernard Muvenga Midzi is the new Minister for this Ministry resulting from the division of the Ministry of Mines and Energy. Amos Midzi has had a long career in government and most recently has served as ZANU-PF Provincial Chairman for Harare since April 2001. Prior to that, Midzi served as ambassador to the U.S. from 1993 to 1999 and Ambassador to Cuba from 1987 to 1993. Midzi was elected to Parliament in 1980 and served until the mid-1980s. From 1982-84, he served as the Deputy Minister of Transport and from 1984-87 as the Deputy Minister of Youth, Sport, and Culture. He was also a member of the ZANU-PF Central Committee from 1984-89.

Midzi began his studies at the University of Rhodesia in 1974 but was subsequently arrested for participation in liberation activities and spent 3 years in political detention. Midzi later returned to the University and received a degree in sociology in 1979. He was born on July 4, 1952. He is married (Alice) and has three children. He is a member of the Zezuru ethnic group\*the same as Mugabe.

Reuben Marumahoko, Deputy Minister: Reuben Marumahoko was MP for Hurungwe East before becoming Deputy Minister. His seat was one challenged and won by the MDC in the High Court but no by-election has yet been held. He is a businessman and is married. He is a ZANU-PF branch political commissar. He has an O level education and a diploma in business management. Marumahoko was born on April 4, 1948.

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Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprise Development  
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Sithembiso Nyoni is the Minister of this newly created Ministry. Mugabe elevated the former Informal Sector department in the president's office, which Nyoni headed, to a full ministry in order to boost the informal sector with facilities and financial support.

Nyoni is from Bulawayo's Makokoba constituency and was born on 20 September 1949. She is married. Prior to being elected to Parliament in 1994, she was a teacher, development consultant, and a lecturer. She has worked in rural development and in women in development. She has a diploma in rural and social development, an advanced diploma in adult education, and a M.A. in rural social development.

Kenneth Kaparadza Mutiwekuziva, Deputy Minister: Kenneth Mutiwekuziva was a MP from Mashonaland East prior to assuming this position. He has a diploma in education, Administration and Policy Studies. He is married and was born on May 27, 1948.

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Ministry of Mines and Mining Development  
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Edward Chindori-Chininga, who was the Minister of Mines and Energy, will head this Ministry. Its focus is to resuscitate closed mines and assist those facing operational difficulties. The Ministry will also ensure that small-scale miners (gold panners) are organized, do not damage the environment, and sell their product to the Reserve Bank and not on the black market. It will also explore marble, granite, diamond, and platinum mining. Chindori-Chininga's wife, Linda, is an American citizen from Houston.

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Ministry of State for Special Affairs  
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John Landa Nkomo, an Ndebele, is the head of this newly

formed sub-ministry. There is no indication of what his new responsibilities will be but Brian Raftopoulos, one of Zimbabwe's most perceptive political analysts, thought the assignment could be a prelude to the Vice Presidency. It could be a way to disengage him from day-to-day ministerial responsibilities and give him a chance to acquire a broader perspective in preparation for his new duties. Nkomo was the Minister of Home Affairs prior to this appointment. He is still the ZANU-PF National Chair. John Nkomo was born on August 22, 1934 and is married.

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Ministry of State, Science and Technology Development

Olivia Muchena is the Minister of this new office created to help the government address the development of science and technology. Olivia Muchena was formerly the Minister of State in VP Msika's Office. She has also served as Deputy Minister of Agriculture. She has spent a large part of her career in education and working in the NGO world. In the past, she was considered a respected technocrat with political savvy and a sensible proponent of indigenization and economic liberalization, but we have had little recent contact with her.

Muchena participated in the liberation struggle both as a student activist at the University of Rhodesia and as a member and chairperson of ZANU branches in Edinburgh (UK) and Rochester-Syracuse-Ithaca, New York.

She received a Ph.D. in Agricultural Education (extension) from Iowa State University in 1990, a M.S. in Extension and Rural Development from Cornell in 1977, and a B.A. from University College of Rhodesia in 1970. Olivia Muchena was born on August 18, 1946.

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Ministry of Transport and Communications

Witness Pasichigare Magunda Mangwende is the new Minister replacing Swithun Mombeshora. Prior to his appointment, Mangwende was serving as ZANU-PF's deputy secretary for administration. He has held several ministerial positions, including Minister of Lands, Agriculture, and Rural Resettlement; Minister of Education and Culture; and Minister of Foreign Affairs from 1981-87.

Mangwende studied for his doctorate in international relations at the London School of Economics during the years of national struggle. He was the President of ZANU's Zimbabwe Student Union. For his undergraduate education, he first attended the University of Rhodesia from 1970 to 1973 but was expelled. He subsequently attended the University of Southampton in England where he received a B.A. in International Relations.

Mangwende was born on October 15, 1946 in Charter. He is married and has no children. Mangwende may have a drinking problem.

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Ministry of Home Affairs

Kembo Mohadi is the new Minister replacing John Nkomo. He was promoted from Deputy Minister of Local Government, Public Works, and National Housing.

Mohadi is a former member of ZIPRA (Zimbabwe African People's Revolutionary Army), the armed wing of PF ZAPU during the war. He is currently in the middle of an ongoing murder investigation involving his wife's &alleged8 lover. Some within law enforcement and the victim's family feel the investigation will be undermined because Mohadi is now in charge of the police force. As mentioned in reftel, Mohadi has intervened personally to try to exert control over NGO food distribution efforts.

Mohadi was born on November 15, 1949.

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Ministry of Finance and Economic Development

Herbert Murerwa is the new Minister replacing Simba Makoni. He was moved from the Ministry of Industry and International Trade to take over the position of Minister of Finance and Economic Development, a position he previously held from 1996-2000. He was the Minister of Industry and Commerce from 1995 to 1996; appointed the Minister of Environment and Tourism in 1990; and was the High Commissioner to the UK from 1984-1990.

Murerwa received a Ph.D. from Harvard in educational planning but he has no economic expertise. Murerwa was born in 1941. He and his wife, Ruth, have 5 children.

Ministry of Industry and International Trade

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Samuel Mumbengegwi is the new Minister replacing Herbert Murerwa. Samuel Mumbengegwi was moved from the Ministry of Higher Education and Technology.

Kenneth Manyonda, Deputy Minister: Kenneth Manyonda was an MP from Buhera South before becoming Deputy Minister. MDC leader Morgan Tsvangirai lost the 2000 parliamentary election to Manyonda, but won his High Court challenge of Manyonda's victory. The GOZ has not yet fulfilled its obligation to schedule a re-run of this election. Manyonda was governor of Manicaland prior to the Parliamentary elections. Manyonda was born on August 10, 1934.

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Ministry of Health and Child Welfare

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David Parirenyatwa is the new Minister replacing Timothy Stamps. David Parirenyatwa had been Deputy Minister of Health and Child Welfare since 1998 but had been Acting Minister since Stamps' illness. Parirenyatwa was elected into the ZANU-PF provincial executive in 1989 and in 1994 was appointed a ZANU-PF Central Committee Member. In November 1997, he won the Parliamentary by-election for Murehwa North and became a Member of Parliament the following month.

Parirenyatwa, born on August 2, 1950, is the eldest son of legendary Zimbabwe nationalist Dr. Samuel Parirenyatwa, Zimbabwe's first black doctor. He seems to be well-connected but is a silent type. He has a M.D., a B.Sc. in chemistry from the University of London, and a M.B. BSC from Lagos University. He is married and has 3 children.

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Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education

Swithun Tachiona Mombeshora is the new Minister replacing Samuel Mumbengegwi. Swithun Mombeshora was moved from the Ministry of Transport and Communications. Mombeshora has been in government since independence. After receiving an undergraduate degree in 1972 from University College of Rhodesia, received a medical degree from University of Birmingham in the mid-1970s. He practiced medicine full-time until becoming a Member of Parliament for Makonde North in 1980. In 1981, he was appointed Deputy Minister of Agriculture and in 1985 he was moved to Deputy Minister of Lands, Agriculture, and Rural Resettlement. From 1988 to 1990 he was the Deputy Minister of Health and in 1990 he was appointed Minister of State for Local Government, Rural and Urban Development. In 1998, he became Minister of State in the President's Office. Mombeshora was born on August 20, 1945. He and his wife, Lucy, have 3 sons and 3 daughters.

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Ministry of State for State Enterprises and Parastatals

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Paul Mangwana is the new Minister. Paul Mangwana, who had been the Deputy Justice Minister since July 2001, assumes this position. In July 2000, he became the ZANU-PF MP for Kadoma. He is on the ZANU-PF legal committee.

We have had limited dealings with Mangwana over the last year but he seemed to have moderate views and to be trying to silently influence the old guard in ZANU-PF. He will not openly challenge senior officials and is more apt to tow the party line. Mangwana is a lawyer by training. He is married, has 4 children (3 sons and 1 daughter), and was born on August 10, 1961.

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Ministry of State for Land Reform

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Flora Bhuka is the new Minister. Bhuka, one of the youngest MPs in Parliament, was formerly the Minister of State in VP Muzenda's office before assuming this position. Bhuka won the 2000 Parliamentary seat for Gokwe East after successfully beating out the incumbent in the primary. Before becoming a MP, Bhuka was political commissar (since 1997) and from 1990-1995, she was a teacher in the Midlands region. She is a gender activist and an advocate for modernizing the educational system. Flora Bhuka is 34 years old and was born in Gokwe. She is not married and has 2 children.

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Ministry of local Government, Public Works, and National Housing

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Chief Fortune Charumbira is the new Deputy Minister. Chief Fortune Charumbira was the Masvingo chiefs, representative in Parliament prior to becoming Deputy Minister. He is an outspoken supporter of the land redistribution exercise. He is married and was born on June 10, 1962.

Ministry of Rural Resources and Water Development

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Tinos Rusere is the new Deputy Minister. Tinos Rusere was MP of Zaka East (one of the country's most violent districts in the period preceding the presidential election) before becoming Deputy Minister. He is an outspoken supporter of the land redistribution exercise. He has an O level education with diplomas in civil engineering, mining, and personnel management. His interests include going to church and listening to gospel music. Rusere was born on May 10, 1945.

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Ministry of Mines and Mining Development  
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Jaison Max Kokerai Machaya is the new Deputy Minister. Jaison Machaya was an MP from Gokwe South before becoming Deputy Minister. He is married, has an O level education, and was born on June 13, 1952.

SULLIVAN